

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 7, as follows:

The above prior art specimen dispensing system causes the following disadvantage if the dispensing nozzles N1 to N3 are quickly moved in order to perform a dispensing operation at high speed. When the dispensing nozzles N1 to N3 move beyond a fixed speed, the removed specimens are likely to be scattered due to a shock caused when the nozzles are stopped, though there are differences in the shape and size of dispensing tips mounted on the nozzles N1 to N3 and the type of specimens. If the specimens are scattered, not only will they decrease in amount but also a so-called contamination occurs, thus causing serious problems.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 20, as follows:

FIGS. 1 and 2 illustrate a specimen dispensing system according to an embodiment of the present invention. The system includes first, second and third conveyor lanes 1, 2 and 3. A conveying means (~~not shown~~shown schematically via arrows 50) conveys a master specimen container 11 containing a specimen and a required number of empty slave specimen containers 21 and 31 on the first conveyor lane 1. The conveying means is capable of conveying and stopping the containers with known structure, similar to that of the prior art. Further details thereof are omitted. ~~It~~ The conveying means conveys a master specimen container 12 containing a specimen and a required number of empty slave specimen containers 22 and 32 on the second conveyor lane 2. It conveys a master specimen container 13 containing a specimen and a required number of empty slave specimen containers 23 and 33 on the third conveyor lane 3. The master and slave specimen containers are aligned in the conveyance direction on their respective lanes.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 9, as follows:

When the master specimen container 11 and empty slave specimen containers 21 and 31 on the first conveyor lane 1 reach a position under a first dispensing nozzle N1 in a dispensing unit, they are stopped by ~~a stopping the conveying means 50(not shown)~~.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 14, as follows:

When the master specimen container 12 and empty slave specimen containers 22 and 32 on the second conveyor lane 2 reach a position under a second dispensing nozzle N2 in the dispensing unit, they are stopped by ~~a stopping the conveying means 50(not shown)~~.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 19, as follows:

When the master specimen container 13 and empty slave specimen containers 23 and 33 on the third conveyor lane 3 reach a position under a third dispensing nozzle N3 in the dispensing unit, they are stopped by ~~a stopping the conveying means 50(not shown)~~.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 10, line 9, as follows:

~~stopping the conveying means~~ for temporarily stopping the master and slave specimen containers 11, 21 and 31 when the master and slave specimen containers 11, 21 and 31 reach a position under a dispensing nozzle N1 in a dispensing unit; and

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 10, line 14, as follows:

dispensing means for removing the specimen from the master specimen container 11 by the dispensing nozzle N1 when the master specimen container 11 is temporarily stopped in the position under the dispensing nozzle N1 by the ~~stopping conveying~~ means and dispensing the specimen to the slave specimen containers 21 and 31 when the slave specimen containers 21 and 31 are temporarily stopped in the position under the dispensing nozzle N1.